US Army Corps of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division
Corps Hurricane Response

Task Force Hope Status Report — *August 8, 2006*

Corps Sets August 16 -17 for Industry Forum

Corps of Engineers Hosting Event to Explain $6.1 Billion in Upcoming Construction Contracts

Corps of Engineers' Industry Forum held in June, 2006 was a huge success. (USACE Photo)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, will be hosting a two-day Industry Forum August 16 and 17, 2006, at the New Orleans Marriott Hotel located at 555 Canal Street.

Purpose:
This two-day forum has been organized to discuss upcoming contracts for Heavy Construction and Architect and Engineering projects such as levee construction and repair (Dirt Work), pump station renovation and repair, flood wall construction and hurricane protection type work in general. Over $6 billion in contracts will be awarded.

First Day:
The first day will be directed toward small business contractors and the participation of small businesses in the hurricane recovery effort.

A presentation will be given by the Small Business Administration (SBA) discussing the Mentor Protégé program, Joint Ventures Agreements and Prime/Sub relationships.

The Corps of Engineers will also give presentations on projects that will be offered over the next couple of years as set- aside or small business friendly solicitations.

Second Day:
The second day will focus on very large Design-Build, Cost-Plus and ID/IQ contracts ranging from $50 million to $750 million or more.

These projects include large levee and flood wall projects and appurtenant structures, navigation floodgates and locks, and large storm water pump stations. Project schedules and general Scopes of Work will be discussed.

There will be a presentation by Lee Evey, national president of the Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA) on the design and construction of large civil projects by the Design-Build method.

The Corps of Engineers has not blocked any rooms at the Marriott but the hotel has agreed to offer the government rate of $103.00/night to anyone wishing overnight accommodations. Simply reference the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Industry Forum when making your reservation.

To attend the Industry Forum one should obtain a registration form, fill it out and return it to the New Orleans District Office of Small Business Programs by faxing to (504) 862-2102 or (202) 481-2930; or by e-mailing to: randy.j.marchiafava@usace.army.mil or edward.c.foley@usace.army.mil or Kenneth.Enclade@sba.gov

Questions concerning the Industry Forum may be directed to these same e-mail addresses. For a registration form, go to: www.mvn.usace.army.mil, then click on the "Contracts" tab.

Turn to page 2 for an Agenda of the Corps of Engineers' Industry Forum.

Also in this issue:

Industry Forum Special Opportunity for Small Businesses

"So far this year the Corps of Engineers' New Orleans District has awarded over $634 million to small business contractors. Of that, over $163 million has gone to small disadvantaged businesses."

- Randy Marchiafava, Deputy for Small Business, Corps of Engineers

Small Business Day
August 16, 2006

0800 Doors Open

0830 to 0845 Opening Remarks

Office of the Mayor, City of New Orleans

0845 to 0900 Opening Remarks—Corps of Engineers

Daniel Hitchings, Chief, Task Force Hope (TFH)

COL Richard Wagenaar, Commander, New Orleans District (MVN)

COL Jeffrey Bedey, Commander, Hurricane Protection Office (HPO)

0900 to 0930 UNO Small Business Development Center

Michael Cusack; What the SBDC is and what the SBDC can do for you

0930 to 1000 LA Procurement Technical Assistance Center (LA-PTAC)

Liz Johnson; What PTAC is and what PTAC can do for you

1000 to 1015 Short Break

1015 to 1115 Partnership Agreements

Patricia Driscoll, SBA; Mentor Protégé Agreements, Joint Venture Agreements, Prime/Sub Relationships

1115 to 1230 LUNCH (On Your Own)

1230 to 1345 Corps of Engineers

Tom Podany, Chief, Protection Restoration Office (PRO); A review of Levees, Floodwalls and Armoring

1345 to 1400 Short Break

1400 to 1530 Corps of Engineers

Rick Kendrick, Deputy Chief HPO; A review of Storm Proofing and Pump Station Repairs

Unrestricted Business Day
August 17, 2006

0730 Doors Open

0800 to 0815 Opening Remarks– Corps of Engineers

Daniel Hitchings, Chief, TFH

COL Jeffrey Bedey, Commander, HPO

COL Richard Wagenaar, Commander, New Orleans District (MVN)

0815 to 0915 Corps of Engineers

Tom Podany, Chief, PRO; A review of upcoming unrestricted projects to be offered by the PRO over the next couple of years

0915 to 0930 Short Break

0930 to 1030 Corps of Engineers

Rick Kendrick, Deputy Chief, HPO, and Project Delivery Team Leader; A review of upcoming unrestricted projects to be offered by the HPO over the next couple of years

1030 to 1045 Short Break

1045 to 1145 Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA)

Lee Evey, National DBIA President; Design-Build Contract Agreements, Joint Venture Agreements, Prime/Sub Relationships

1145 to 1200 Closing Remarks

All meetings will be held at:

New Orleans Marriott Hotel
555 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA
1-800-228-9290 or
(504) 581-1000

Corps To Acquire Land Rights for Needed Levee Dirt

Crews gather clay for levee construction at the Myrtle Grove Borrow Pit in Plaquemines Parish. (USACE Photo by Paul Floro)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wants to acquire borrow easements to obtain the clay needed for levee construction.

In addition to money, landowners will also get the satisfaction of helping in the improvement of hurricane levees for New Orleans and neighboring parishes.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers needs the acreage to obtain clay to restore the levees that have lost elevation because of subsidence occurring in south Louisiana, or to strengthen a levee's cross-section.

"We need a lot of dirt over the next four years. Specifically, we need clay," said April Villa, the Corps' project manager for clay. "Clay is made of tiny sedimentary particles. It is preferred for building a levee. Silt and sand, whose diameters are larger, are permeable and erodable," Villa said. "Clay compacts well, and retards water's movement through a levee."

"We want to acquire the rights to obtain borrow material from your land. We will consider obtaining borrow material from a site that has a minimum of 10 acres," Villa said.

The 10 acres must be contiguous, excluding wetlands. In the event that the land parcel to be offered might contain wetlands—which cover much of south Louisiana—the government will try to avoid using them. However, if non-wetlands clay falls far short of government needs, the government would consider using wetlands for borrow.

Landowners may learn more at the web site www.mvn.usace.army.mil/borrow and find the form on which to offer their land for testing and possible acquisition of real estate rights for borrow.

Landowners with questions or requests for forms may call 504-862-CLAY.

Contact Information

Topic	Phone	Organization
New Orleans District work	(504) 862-2201	New Orleans District Public Affairs
Task Force Hope - Overall hurricane protection system restoration, repair and improvement	(504) 862-1836	Task Force Hope Public Affairs
Debris Removal in Louisiana	(504) 681-2317	Louisiana Recovery Field Office
Debris Removal in Mississippi	(601) 631-5065	Mississippi Recovery Field Office

The *Status Report Newsletter* supports the information program for Task Force Hope and its stakeholders. It also serves as the primary tool for accurately transmitting the hurricane recovery work to stakeholders. This is an online publication and open to public distribution. This issue and past issues can be found at: www.mvn.usace.army.mil/hps
Comments and questions may be sent to the Status Report Newsletter editor at:
b2fwdpao@usace.army.mil

Status Report Newsletter
Task Force Hope
Public Affairs Office MVD-FWD
7400 Leake Ave., Room #388
New Orleans, LA 70118
(504) 862-1688

Faces of Hope

Walter Baumy Receives Coveted Wheeler Medal from Society of American Military Engineers

Story by Roger Cawley

For Walter Baumy, the clock never stopped. "I could always hear it going tick tock, tick tock," he said.

Baumy, Chief, Engineering Division, was the senior civilian and engineer assigned to Task Force Guardian after Hurricane Katrina slammed into southeastern Louisiana. What stands out in his memory is the relentless sense of time ticking away and the countdown reminders at Task Force Guardian Headquarters of how much work had to be done and how little time they had.

Their challenge was formidable: restore the hurricane protection system's 169 miles of damaged earthen levees and concrete floodwalls, and repair most of its existing pump stations before the onset of the next hurricane season.

Teaming with Task Force Guardian Commander, Col. Lewis Setliff, Baumy said the priorities of the task force were clear from the start: "We were to restore the system and rebuild confidence."

Day after day for nearly nine months he and his teams shouldered 75-hour plus work-weeks creating the processes for handling decision-making and then executing the details of a huge array of projects, each of which was crucial to achieving Task Force Guardian's mission by June 1, 2006. "We needed to build a quality product and demonstrate that we had. We knew it was a good product," Baumy said.

In doing just that, and in recognition of his leadership in achieving the goals of Task Force Guardian, Walter Baumy was awarded the Wheeler Medal by the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) May 31, 2006. The award is presented to SAME members for "outstanding contributions to military engineering by a civilian or uniformed member of the Army."

Walter Baumy in his MVN office (USACE Photo by Paul Floro)

In remarks to the presentation audience, the Society's Executive Director, Robert D. Wolff, noted that, "Baumy's leadership, technical competency, strategic engagement and engineering wisdom enabled production of 59 distinct construction projects in an unprecedented accelerated timeframe."

While personally honored by the award, Baumy prefers to credit his team. "What was asked of us was a huge job," he said. "The magnitude of construction and level of protection required would ordinarily take years to design and construct. We did it in months. Our team possessed such a high level of skill, energy and teamwork combined with a tremendous sense of duty and pride that I consider it an honor to have served with each and every team member."

Baumy took three days off during that nine-month stretch: Mother's Day, Easter and a college-awards event recognizing his daughter, Rachel. "A mandatory three-day shutdown at Christmas and at New Year's was ordered" he remembers, "because everyone on the team was working so hard and needed a break. We knew it was going to be a tough finish."

In the high-profile, deadline-driven pressure cooker he called work, where there was no typical day except for its length, Baumy says the real source of his strength those days was his family, especially his wife, Ami. "When every day was a countdown, she kept me straight and kept me going," he said.

He also points to the inspiration of people around him, like Col. Setliff. Baumy remembers a meeting, one of many the task force held with residents, local and state officials and civic associations. At this particular one, a local resident named Henry took the microphone and angrily questioned whether the Corps was up to the task of protecting them. Baumy said Col. Setliff carefully listened and then responded by inviting Henry to tour some Corps construction sites and projects. A few weeks later, back at the meeting hall, there was Henry again. "This time," Baumy recalls "Henry had a different message. Holding onto the microphone, Henry now told his neighbors: 'You

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Wheeler Medal (USACE Photo)

Baumy, Continued from page 4

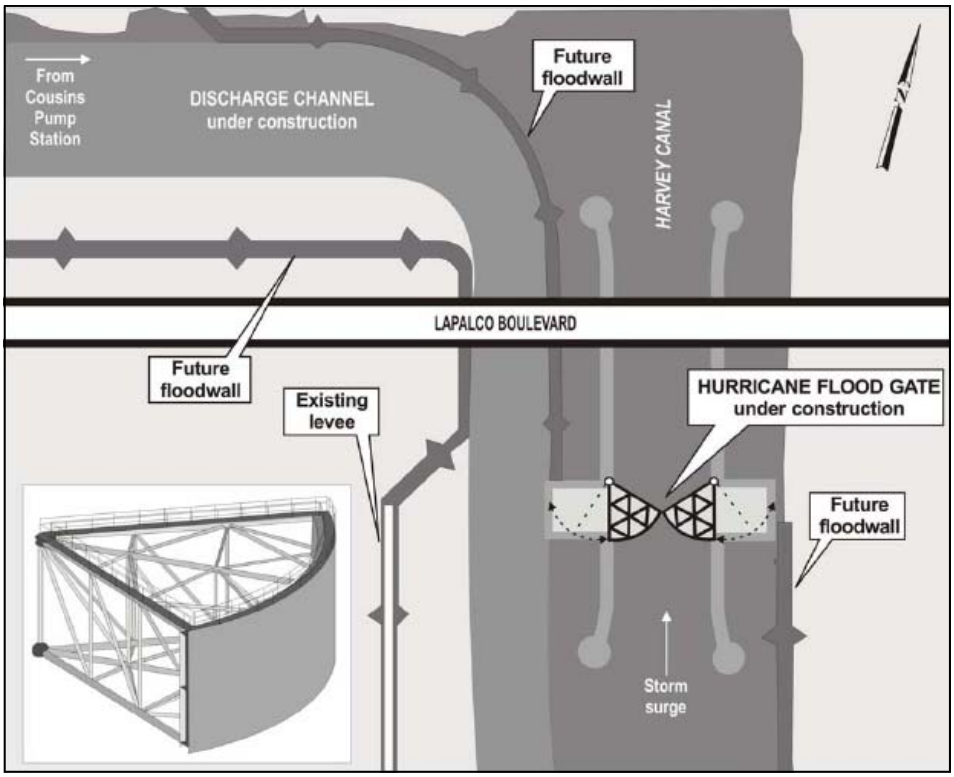
people have nothing to worry about'."

The medal and the recognition are a long way from his first days with the Corps in 1974 pushing soil tubes in the Soils lab while a student at the University of New Orleans. The next year after graduation he joined the Corps as a full-time employee. A native of St. Bernard Parish, he's resided with his family in Mandeville since 1989.

Looking back on this period of his career, Baumy admits he didn't realize at the outset how much work would be required to restore hurricane protection levels before the start of hurricane season. The Wheeler Medal Award citation comes close:

".. he oversaw the restoration of more than 169 miles of ravaged hurricane protection systems, 68 pumping stations and four water control structures. This $800 million construction program was executed in the 276 days between August 29, 2005, and June 1, 2006, when Hurricane Katrina struck and the start of the new hurricane season. Baumy was also personally involved in the engineering of improved designs of the earthen levees protecting the city of New Orleans, and in the stability improvements to miles of floodwall repairs."

New Harvey Canal Gate System, Harvey, LA



New floodgate will extend hurricane protection across the Harvey Canal for the first time. (USACE Illustration by Anne Marino)

Harvey Canal hurricane floodgate installed

What. Two 175-ton sector gates were installed as the key components of a hurricane floodgate being constructed on the Harvey Canal on the West Bank of metro New Orleans.

When. One gate was installed on August 3, the second on August 4.

Who. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, contractor Boh Bros. Construction Co., and heavy-lift specialist Bisso Marine Co.

Where. Harvey Canal, immediately south of Lapalco Boulevard bridge in Harvey, Louisiana.

Delivery route. By barge from Boh fabrication yard in eastern New Orleans through the Industrial Canal Lock, down Mississippi River to the Algiers Lock, and along Algiers Canal to Harvey Canal from the south.

Installation Method. A Bisso Marine derrick barge lifts a gate from a deck barge, then slowly lowers it onto a pintle at the bottom of the gate bay. The pintle is a mushroom-shaped steel component about three feet tall and 2.5 feet wide. Placement is a precision process that can require hours.

What the gates will do. Remain open most of the time, giving navigation a 125-foot horizontal clearance. When a tropical storm surge threatens, each gate will pivot on its pintle into the closed position to block the surge. These gates are the centerpiece of the West Bank system of hurricane levees, floodwalls and gates.